of printing equipment etc. thereby ensuring the growth of newspapers.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to set up a Regional Office in Orissa. The Regional Office at Calcutta is able to cater to the needs of newspapers in the State of Orissa.

Relay Hunger Strike by J.T.O.

*33. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE :

CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Junior Telecom Officers actively involved in strategic operation and maintenance of telecom services have recently started a country-wide relay hunger strike to press for the settlement of their long pending demands; and

(b) what are their demands and in what manner Government propose to meet them keeping in view the economic situation in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) A Notice dated 18-3-93 for trade union actions has been received from Junior Telecom Officers Association. The Trade Union Actions included relay hunger strike from 6th to 8th April 1993 at CGM/GM Headquarters followed by similar hunger strike on 27th and 28th April, 1993 and work according to rule w.e.f. 27-4-93. Reports have been received that relay hunger strike had been organised from 6-8th April 1993 at some places in response to the call given by the JTOs Association.

(b) The demands of the Association are :—

(i) Creation of about 4800 Additional posts in TES Gr. 'B' so that approximately about 550 AEs, who face reversion as a result of recasting the Seniority list sequel to the Court's judgement are not demoted and all the Officials senior to them as per the revised seniority order are promoted.

(ii) Second Lateral Advancement.

(iii) Abrogation of TES Gr. 'B' qualifying examination.

(iv) Extending the benefit of advance increments to JTOs directly entering the Department with a qualification of degree in Engineering and rationalisation of the number of increments.

(v) Proper remuneration in the form of Over Time Allowance for JTOs performing duties on holidays/beyond office hours.

The Department is seized of the demands. Action within the frame work of rules and directive of the Court judgements is being taken. Discussions had also been held with the representatives of the Association. The agitation has been called off.

Decline in Revenue Collection

*34. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a fall in revenue collection during last year and so far in the current year in the country; if so, the extent thereof; and

(b) what measures have been taken to recover the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) The provisional estimate of shortfall in the